

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 02004 090412Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7288

S E C R E T SAN JOSE 2004

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, TD, CS

SUBJECT: PLANNING FOR MRS. CARTER'S VISIT

REFS: A) STATE 104923; B) SAN JOSE 1745

1. BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED REFTEL A, TOGETHER WITH SUGGESTIONS OFFERED BY FOREIGN MINISTER, POST HERewith SUBMITS MODIFIED PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS. PUBLIC APPEARANCES WOULD NOW DEMONSTRATE RECOGNITION OF THE TWO FACTORS OF NATIONAL LIFE IN WHICH COSTA RICANS TAKE GREATEST PRIDE -- THE BREADTH AND QUALITY OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC TRADITION. PROGRAM WOULD ALSO COMBINE VISIT TO NATIONAL THEATER AND ATTENDANCE AT PERFORMANCE OF NATIONAL YOUTH SYMPHONY WITH RECEPTION (RATHER THAN DINNER) IN HONOR OF MRS. CARTER.

2. THE MOST IMPORTANT NEW ELEMENT IN OUR PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS IS A VISIT TO SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL (TSE). TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS INSTITUTION IS UNIQUE TO COSTA RICA. IT FUNCTIONS INDEPENDENTLY OF REST OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM AS SUPERVISOR OF ALL POLITICAL ACTIVITY, ADMINISTRATOR OF ELECTORAL SYSTEM, AND OPERATOR OF ELECTORAL MACHINERY. THE TSE ADJUDICATES CITIZENSHIP QUESTIONS, REGISTERS VOTERS,

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CERTIFIES POLITICAL PARTIES, INVESTIGATES ILLEGAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY, INTERPRETS ALL LAWS CONCERNING ELECTIONS, ORGANIZES AND CONDUCTS ELECTIONS, AND CERTIFIES THEIR RESULTS. SINCE BASIC PURPOSE OF TSE IS TO GUARANTEE FREE ELECTIONS, TSE ALSO ASSUMES DIRECT CONTROL OF PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES DURING ELECTION PERIODS. ITS AUTHORITY IN ALL OF THESE MATTERS IS UNQUESTIONED.

A VISIT TO THE TSE BY MRS. CARTER WOULD BE A SINGULARLY APPROPRIATE WAY TO EXPRESS U.S. APPRECIATION OF, AND IDENTIFICATION WITH, COSTA RICA'S DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AND VALUES.

3. AS NOW ENVISAGED HERE, AND PENDING WASHINGTON REVIEW, DISCUSSIONS WITH ADVANCE TEAM, AND ADVICE REGARDING ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURES TIMES, MRS. CARTER'S PROGRAM WOULD INCLUDE FOLLOWING:

4. MAY 31

A) ARRIVAL. TO BE GREETED AT AIRPORT BY MRS. ODUBER AND FOREIGN MINISTER AND MRS. FACIO;

B) AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LOCAL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES. (ARRIVAL STATEMENT AND LIMITED NUMBER OF QS AND AS.);

C) CALL ON PRESIDENT ODUBER; DISCUSS BILATERAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES;

D) CALL ON MRS. ODUBER AT HER RESIDENCE;

E) ATTEND RECEPTION HOSTED BY PRESIDENT ODUBER OR FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO. RECEPTION WOULD BE HELD IN FOYER OF NATIONAL THEATER WHICH IS SOURCE OF PRIDE TO ALL COSTA RICANS. (DOST WOULD OFFER TOAST OR REMARKS; MRS. CARTER WOULD REPLY.) AT CONCLUSION OF RECEPTION,
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GUESTS WOULD MOVE INTO THEATER TO LISTEN TO BRIEF PERFORMANCE OF NATIONAL YOUTH SYMPHONY. IF TIME PERMITS, A BRIEF PERFORMANCE OF NATIONAL FOLK BALLET MIGHT ALSO BE INCLUDED.

5. JUNE 1

A) VISIT BI-NATIONAL CENTER (WHICH GOVERNOR CARTER VISITED IN 1972 AND TO WHICH HE DONATED \$800.00.) MEET WITH EMBASSY SSFF IN CENTER'S AUDITORIUM (REMARKS);

B) CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO; DISCUSS BILATERAL AND REGIONAL QUESTIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES AT UNGA;

C) VISIT SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL (BRIEF REMARKS);

D) VISIT LOCAL SCHOOL ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. ODUBER; MAKE BOOK PRESENTATION (BRIEF REMARKS);

E) HOST LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT AND
MRS. ODUBER; (TOAST)

F) DEPARTURE (DELIVER AIRPORT DEPARTURE
STATEMENT WITH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT BUT NO
QS AND AS.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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